He states, however, that from his point of view, the subject lends itself to no other interpretation. To quote a few sentences from the introduction: "Der Formenreichtum der Gattung Amsinckia übertraf alle meine Erwartungen. Mein Arbeit wird wohl keinen Botaniker befriedigen; ich selbst bin auch nicht damit zufrieden; glaube aber sie wird dahin führen, dass wir bald die Gattung besser verstehen werden. Die grosse Zahl der neuen Arten spricht nicht günstig für meine Arbeit, denn sie wird Misstrauen erregen. Die Sache liess sich aber nicht anders machen, nach meiner Ansicht."

The genus is divided into the four subgenera, Muricatae, Microcarpae, Tessellatae, and Vernicosae, chiefly on the basis of fruit characters, namely, of size, shape and sculpture of the nutlets, and on the number and arrangement of the vascular bundles of the corolla. For some of the subdivisions, the character of the position of the stamens, whether high or low on the corolla, is used.

Dr. Asa Gray, in the Synoptical Flora in 1886, recognized only six species and two varieties of *Amsinckia*. Macbride, in 1917, characterized twenty-one species.[4] In that work Macbride states: "Altogether *Amsinckia* is the most perplexing group I have studied and I can only hope that this effort to define its natural components may lead to careful field-work by some one who may then be in a position to prove or correct my interpretation. It is conceivable, with the better understanding gained from field-observation of specific limitations within the group, that it will be found to consist of many more species than the twenty-one here recognized." Perhaps no one is in a better position than Suksdorf to carry on the work of further elucidating this genus. During the last twenty years his attention has been focused on *Amsinckia*. In his garden at Bingen he has cultivated many species and thus has had the opportunity of studying them closely in the living condition. He has collected Amsinckias in many parts of western United States, principally in Washington and California; indeed, some of his first collections of specimens of the genus were made in the latter state as early as 1875, when he was a student at the then very new University of California. For his monograph he has had the benefit of collections of *Amsinckia* from the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, the University of California, the California Academy of Sciences, the State College of Washington, and those from his own very extensive herbarium at Bingen.

Though it is not to be expected that the results of Suksdorf's work will be accepted *in toto* by all botanists, yet the monograph is one that will merit careful consideration by all serious students of the Boraginaceae.—GEORGE NEVILLE JONES, State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington.

ABIES BALSAMEA (L.) Mill., forma **hudsonia** (Bosc), comb. nov. *Picea Fraseri*, var. *hudsonia* (Bosc) Knight & Perry, Syn. Conif. Pl. 39 (1850). *A. hudsonia* Bosc ex Knight & Perry, l. c. in syn. (1850). *A. Fraseri* (B) *nana* Lindl. & Gordon, Journ. Hort. Soc. Lond. v. 209 (1850), based on "*Pinus hudsonica*" of Gardens (presumably a

[4] Macbride, J. Francis, A Revision of the North American Species of Amsinckia. Contrib. Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, **49**, n. s.: 1–16, 1917.

misprint for *Abies hudsonia*). *A. Fraseri*, var. *Hudsoni* Carrière, Traité Gén. Conif. 200 (1855). *A. Hudsoni* Hort. acc. to Carr. l. c., in syn. (1855). *A. balsamea Hudsonica* Veitch, Man. Conif. 83 (1881), wrongly ascribed to Engelm. *A. balsamea prostrata* Hort. acc. to Veitch, l. c. in syn. (1881). *A. balsamea* [var.] *hudsonia* Sarg. Sylva, xii. 109 (1898), erroneously ascribed to Engelm.

The dwarf, prostrate extreme of *Abies balsamea* is certainly only a depressed *form*, a response to bleak habitats, quite parallel with the dwarf forms in *Picea* and other groups.—M. L. Fernald and C. A. Weatherby.

Druce's Comital Flora.[1]—The venerable Dr. Druce was the most intense student of the local occurrence of the vascular plants in Great Britain. His many county floras and his somewhat single-handed and often dictatorial editing of the local records published in the Reports of the Botanical Society and Exchange Club of the British Isles are familiar to many American botanists. In spite of the patent triviality and the quibbling character of many of the published items (such as a dignified scientific journal would scarcely wish to publish), their real meat was thoroughly digested by the Editor; and he was alert, to an extent probably unparalleled, to carry on extensive local botanizing and to follow up the discoveries of others. In his own words "A new record was not to be sneered at but was a real joy."

Druce's last extensive work was the preparation of The Comital Flora of the British Isles, "being the Distribution of British Plants . . . throughout the 152 Vice-Counties of Great Britain, Ireland, and the Channel Islands, with the Place of Growth, Elevation, World-Distribution, Grade, Chief Synonyms, and First Names by which the Plants were recorded as British, . . . with an original Coloured Map showing the Botanical Vice-Counties presented by WILLIAM JAMES PATY, Esq." This final and very useful book of Druce's was never seen by him in its finished form, for, as his close friend and publisher, Mr. Costorphine, writes in a personal letter, "it was issued on the day of his death." The book, then, is a most appropriate monument to a life of intense activity and devotion to the recording of local data on the British flora.

The volume will not appeal to those who look for continuous reading and logical development of a theme or for a philosophic consideration of the facts recorded. After historical and explanatory introductory matter it becomes completely matter-of-fact and, until it is understood, cryptic. It is comparable with a railroad timetable or with stock-market reports, though a trifle more satisfying than the latter. As a sample (selected for its brevity and because the plant is familiar to most readers of Rhodora) take

660.—LIPARIS Rich.

1.—L. Loeselii (L.) Rich.

Uliginal. Germanic. Fenny bogs, damp hollows in sand-dunes. Rare. P. Lowland.

[1] George Claridge Druce. The Comital Flora of the British Isles. *T. Buncle & Co.*, Market Place, Arbroath. 1932. *Price* 20 s.